

CLAIMS

1. A method of generating a user interface for a device,
5 the method comprising the steps of:

(a) generating a plurality of sets of user interface elements, each of the plurality of sets of user interface elements comprising one or more user interface elements, wherein the or each user interface element is associated with
10 a defined region of the user interface;

(b) ordering each of the plurality of sets of user interface elements into an sequence;

(c) querying each of the plurality of sets of user interface elements to select a plurality of user interface elements for use in the user interface, the sets being queried in accordance with the ordering performed in step (b), wherein if more than one user interface element is associated with the same region of the user interface then the selected user interface element is taken from the set of
15 elements which occurs first within the sequence determined in step (b); and

(d) rendering the user interface in accordance with the plurality of user interface elements selected in step (c).

25 2. A method according to claim 1, wherein a first user interface element selected in step (c) and rendered in step (d) can be removed from the rendered user interface by

30 i) inserting a further user interface element into a set of user interface elements such that in step (b) the set of user interface elements that comprises the further user interface element is ordered before the set of user interface elements that comprises the first user interface

element;

ii) wherein the further user interface element is associated with the same user interface region as the first user interface element.

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3. A method according to claim 1, wherein a first user interface element selected in step (c) and rendered in step (d) can be removed from the rendered user interface by

10 i) inserting a further set of user interface elements into the ordered sequence determined in step (b) such that the further set of user interface elements is ordered before the set of user interface elements that comprises the first user interface element;

15 ii) the further set of user interface elements comprising a further user interface element which is associated with the same user interface region as the first user interface element.

20 4. A method according to claim 1, wherein one or more user interface elements are added to the UI, the method further comprising the step of inserting one or more user interface elements into one or more of the plurality of sets of user interface elements.

25 5. A method according to claim 1, wherein one or more user interface elements are added to the UI, the method further comprising the step of generating one or more further sets of user interface elements, the or each further set comprising one or more user interface elements.

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6. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein one or more of the plurality of sets of user interface elements

are associated with an application that can be activated through the user interface.

7. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein one 5 or more of the plurality of sets of user interface elements are associated with the manufacturer of the device.

8. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein one 10 or more of the plurality of sets of user interface elements are associated with a user of the device.

9. A device comprising a display means and a user interface being displayed by the display means, the device being configured, in use, to:

15 (a) generate a plurality of sets of user interface elements, each of the plurality of sets of user interface elements comprising one or more user interface elements, wherein the or each user interface element is associated with a defined region of the user interface;

20 (b) order each of the plurality of sets of user interface elements into an sequence;

25 (c) query each of the plurality of sets of user interface elements to select a plurality of user interface elements for use in the user interface, the sets being queried in accordance with the ordering performed in step (b), wherein if more than one user interface element is associated with the same region of the user interface then the selected user interface element is taken from the set of elements which occurs first within the sequence determined in 30 step (b); and

(d) render the user interface in accordance with the plurality of user interface elements selected in step (c).

10. A device according to claim 9 wherein, in use, a first user interface element selected in step (c) and rendered in step (d) is removed from the rendered user interface, the 5 device being further configured to:

10 i) insert a further user interface element into a set of user interface elements such that in step (b) the set of user interface elements that comprises the further user interface element is ordered before the set of user interface elements that comprises the first user interface element;

ii) wherein the further user interface element is associated with the same user interface region as the first user interface element.

15 11. A device according to claim 9 wherein, in use, a first user interface element selected in step (c) and rendered in step (d) is removed from the rendered user interface, the device being further configured to:

20 i) insert a further set of user interface elements into the ordered sequence determined in step (b) such that the further set of user interface elements is ordered before the set of user interface elements that comprises the first user interface element;

25 ii) the further set of user interface elements comprising a further user interface element which is associated with the same user interface region as the first user interface element.

30 12. A device according to claim 9, wherein one or more user interface elements are added to the UI, the device being further configured, in use, to insert one or more user interface elements into one or more of the plurality of sets

of user interface elements.

13. A device according to claim 9, wherein one or more user interface elements are added to the UI, the device being 5 further configured, in use, to generate one or more further sets of user interface elements, the or each further set comprising one or more user interface elements.

14. A device according to any of claims 9 to 13, wherein one 10 or more of the plurality of sets of user interface elements are associated with an application that can be activated through the user interface.

15. A device according to any of claims 9 to 14, wherein one 15 or more of the plurality of sets of user interface elements are associated with the manufacturer of the device.

16. A device according to any of claims 9 to 15, wherein one 20 or more of the plurality of sets of user interface elements are associated with a user of the device.

17. A device according to any of claims 9 to 16, wherein the device further comprises one or more wireless communication interfaces for communication with a wireless communications 25 network, and one or more of the plurality of sets of user interface elements are associated with an operator of a wireless communications network.

18. A data carrier comprising computer executable code for 30 performing the method of any of claims 1 to 8.